



City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

North Trail Study Area Plan



North TSA Plan Workshop

PRELIMINARY SCENARIOS SUGGESTED CHANGES

OCTOBER 19, 2015





North Trail Study Area Plan

Agenda

6:00 pm Welcome

6:05 pm The North TSA Planning Process

6:10 pm Summary of Community Feedback on Preliminary Scenarios

6:30 pm Scenario Refinement

- *What scenario did you start with?*
- *Why did you think the scenario needed to be revised? What interest(s) was it not meeting sufficiently?*
- *What changes did you make?*
- *How do you think those changes improve the scenario's ability to meet the identified interests?*
- *What, if any, other changes did you make to the scenario to ensure balance with the other identified interests?*

8:25 pm Wrap-Up and Next Steps

8:30 pm Adjourn



North Trail Study Area Plan

Goal

Improve visitors' experiences and increase the sustainability of trails, while conserving natural, agricultural and cultural resources.





North Trail Study Area Plan

PLANNING PROCESS

Phase 1 Inventory and Assessment

PURPOSE: Share knowledge of the current conditions of recreational, natural, cultural and agricultural resources.

RESULTS: Inventory and Assessment Report.

KEY INPUTS:

- Community knowledge of visitor experiences, resources, what is functioning well in the North TSA and what needs improvement.
- Staff-prepared information on recreational, natural, cultural and agricultural resources.

Phase 2 Interests and Issues

*An interest is the WHY behind the WHAT.
An issue is WHAT may need to be change*

PURPOSE: Share knowledge about desired outcomes and topics that will guide the development and assessment of alternative scenarios and recommendations for the draft plan.

RESULTS: Desired actions for consideration in scenario development.

KEY INPUTS:

- Community interests about desired plan outcomes and why the outcomes are wanted.
- Discussion of issues that could pose a challenge in the North TSA.
- Community dialogue about what is learned and can be implemented in the North TSA and why.

Interests	Interest Icons
Improved Visitor Experiences	
Conservation of Resources (Natural/Agricultural/Cultural)	
Improved Access and Accessibility	
Strengthening Community (Urban and Suburban)	
Increased Education and Understanding	
Improved Connectivity	
Balance of Recreation and Resource Conservation	
Increased Safety	
Decreased Visitor Conflict	
Effective Planning Process and Plan Implementation	

Phase 3 Draft Plan Development

*A scenario is a set of potential actions
that addresses interests and issues.*

PURPOSE: Assess alternative scenarios and integrate preferred recommendations into a draft plan.

RESULTS: Preferred scenarios compiled into a draft plan.

KEY INPUTS:

- Draft alternative scenarios developed by staff to achieve identified interests and objectives.
- Community feedback on draft scenarios to inform preferred scenarios and recommendations.

Phase 4 Plan Acceptance

PURPOSE: Review draft plan and approve final plan.

RESULTS: Final North Trail Study Area Plan.

KEY INPUTS:

- Community review.
- Open Space Board of Trustees review and approval.
- City Council review and acceptance.





North Trail Study Area Plan

North TSA Plan Interests

Improved Visitor Experience		Improved Connectivity	
Conservation of Resources (Natural/Agricultural/Cultural)		Balance of Recreation and Resource Conservation	
Improved Access and Accessibility		Increased Safety	
Honoring Community Values and Commitments		Decreased Visitor Conflict	
Increased Education and Understanding		Effective Planning Process and Plan Implementation	

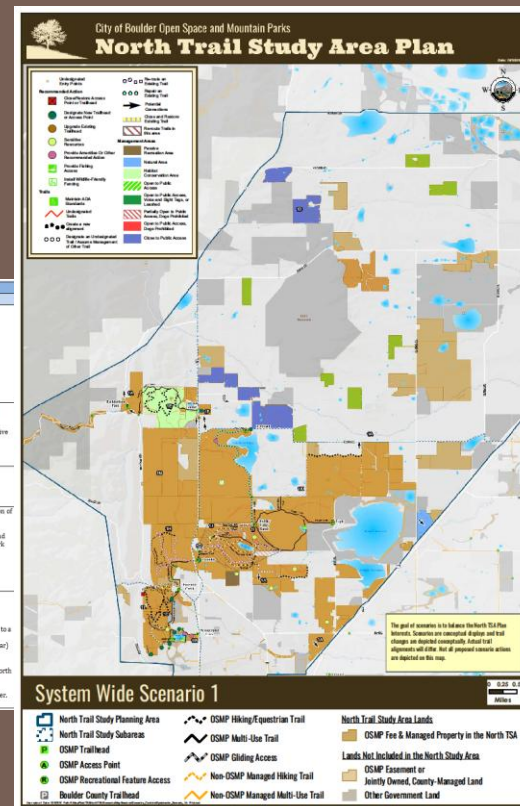


North Trail Study Area Plan

What is a Preliminary Scenario?

A preliminary scenario is a conceptual vision of a set of actions that balance interests in the North TSA.

Action	Interests	Primary Goal	Driving Factors/Benefits	Considerations
Open Space and Mountain Parks (OSMP) is interested in collaborating with community and partner agencies to create local connections or opportunities arise that include North TSA trails.		At future opportunities allow collaboration on a north-south trail connection from Boulder Area III (city park property) to North TSA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase connectivity for residents and Boulder residents to the North TSA.• Provide more connections to the North TSA.• Consider benefits, constraints, impacts and implications of future development in this area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinate with Parks and Recreation Department.• Protect natural resources, especially sensitive and important ponds and associated habitat and species.• Use existing roads as much as possible to maintain habitat quality.• Avoid trail development in wetland areas near ponds.• Shooting range in adjacent lands.
Rebuild agricultural operation headquarters from Boulder Valley Ranch (BVR) and turn it into a wildlife.		Increase space for trailhead and parking along with opportunities for interactive educational visitor experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue existing agricultural operations.• Convert existing BVR structures into interpretive opportunities.• Allow current tenant to relocate agricultural headquarters.• Avoid creating new trails in this area.• Increase parking, especially for horse trailers.• Increase opportunities for educational experiences.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect important and significant structures, including the shed, to maintain historical value.• Address equestrian learning opportunities in the area.• Consider staffing implications with providing new educational and interpretive resources.
Clearly sign Boulder Valley Ranch horse corral as open to public use.		Maintain long-standing equestrian use of facilities by clearly marking public opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase opportunities for equestrian activities.• Maintain connection to equestrian history/educational experiences.	
Re route and rebuild trails extensively south of the Boulder Valley Ranch trailhead.		Improve visitor experience with new and rerouted trails.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reduce trail density but increase quality by removing and rerouting trails.• Remove trails that run through prairie dog colonies to maintain or improve nationally highly suitable habitat (NHS).• Re-route east portion of Eagle Trail and Coho Trail as they come into Boulder Valley Ranch Trailhead to increase sustainability.• Retain access to Old Mill.• Utilize terrain effectively to create a better mountain biking experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify strategies to discourage use of existing undesignated trails or creation of new ones below Eagle Trailhead.• Protect shade harvest from resource impacts caused by hikers.• Protect sensitive resources, including north-facing shrublands, new plants and communities, highly suitable habitat for North TSA focal species including lack of prairie and prairie restoration.• Other Options:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other bike access on just one loop in this area.• Allow bike access on rerouted Coho Trail.
Provide trail connection from Boulder Valley Ranch to Nymph Road by connecting North Rim Trail to 15th Street.		Increase connections between North TSA and other regional destinations and provide another point of entry for visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide trails that increase opportunities for regional trail connections.• Provide visitors a safe alternative to current connections along busy roads.• Provide an alternative to using Nymph Road as a regional connection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider implications of trail connections through active agricultural land.• Design trail around natural and agricultural resources.• Provide effective safety measures at ditch crossings and from agricultural operations.• Consider implications of Johnson property around 15th Street being changed to a small organic farm operation.• Include trail in existing protective closure for equestrian (6 months of year) due to close proximity of trail to nest (200 m).• Identify effective and feasible enforcement strategies to protect equestrian.• Boulder County is open to OSMP taking on management responsibilities of North Rim Trail if it makes sense in the context of North TSA Plan.• Other Options:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create trail along feeder canal, although other visitors, such as Northern Western, may not be in favor of this option.





North Trail Study Area Plan

Important Points:

- Each scenario balances the interests in a different way.
- We know we didn't get it exactly right in any scenario. There are lots of ways to balance the interests.
- The ideas are conceptual with the details yet to be determined.

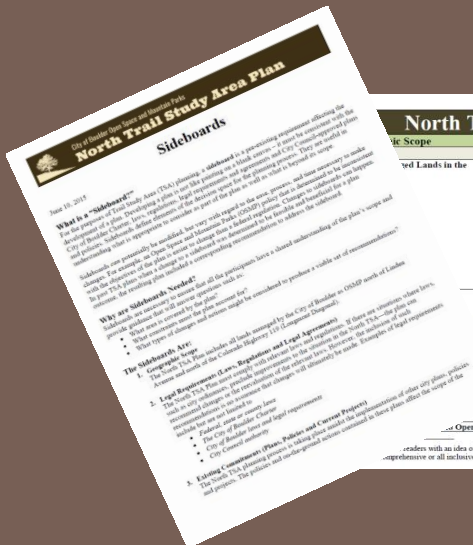


North Trail Study Area Plan

Successful Scenarios

A successful scenario is based on:

1. Consistency with the North TSA Plan Sideboards.
2. How well the scenario balances the interests.



North Trail Study Area Plan Sideboards

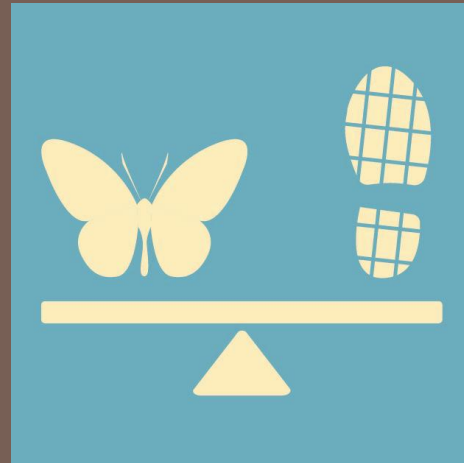
Sideboard Scope	Clarification/Examples ¹
Land in the	The North TSA Plan property map includes the OSMP-managed properties in the North TSA planning area. Properties owned jointly with Boulder County are included in the North TSA when an intergovernmental agreement identifies OSMP as the property manager and therefore the rules, regulations, policies and plans of the managing agency apply to the property. The North TSA includes other properties where OSMP has joint ownership or legally is identified as the land manager. If OSMP is not the property owner or manager, the property will not be included in the North TSA. See North TSA Boundary

Regulations and Legal Agreements

Clarification/Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Endangered Species Act. For example, projects in Perlie's meadow jumping mouse suitable habitat on the Indian River. Sensitive occupied habitat may require authorization and permits from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The Federal Clean Water Act regarding stream, wetlands and water body protection. State laws and federal regulations pertaining the removal or damage to cultural resources. Boulder County's land use and flood plain requirements, and The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

¹Open Article XII of the City of Boulder Charter describes:

Sideboards with an idea of some relevant sideboards in a broad category to improve their understanding of the category. The examples are not representative or all inclusive.

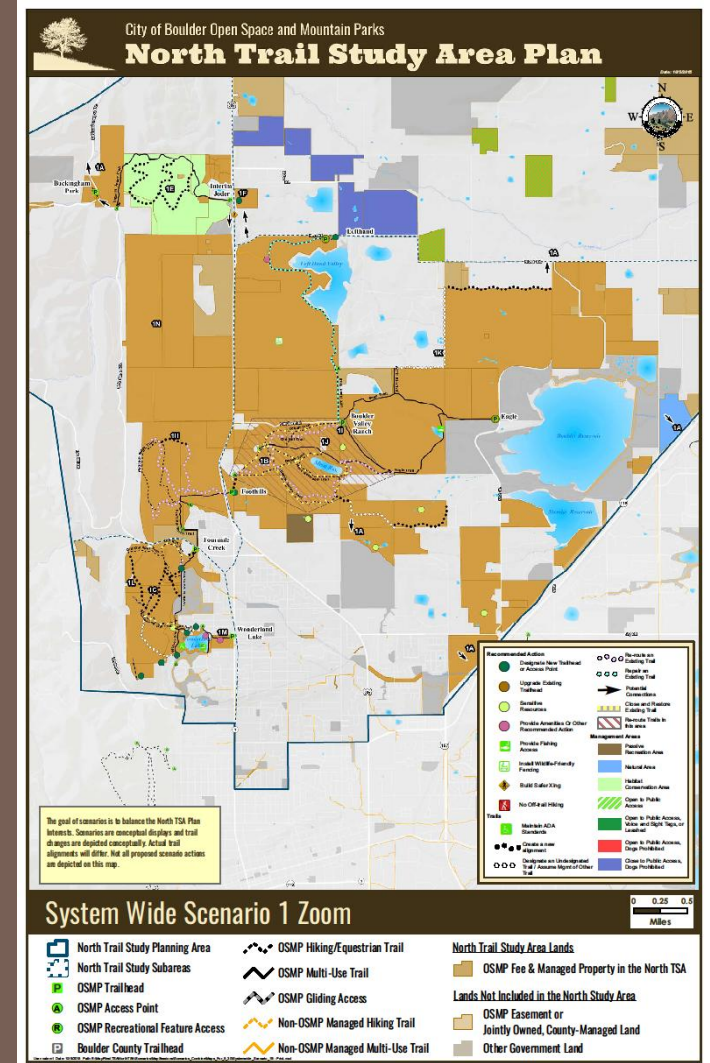




North Trail Study Area Plan

Highlights of Scenario 1

Action	Scenario 1
Joder Connection	East of US 36 via Lefthand Trail
Joder Trails	Two loop trails
Joder Trailheads	Schooley Property (east side US 36)
BVR Trailheads	Relocate Sage to BVR Ranch
Wonderland Lake	Old Kiln link Additional nature study access

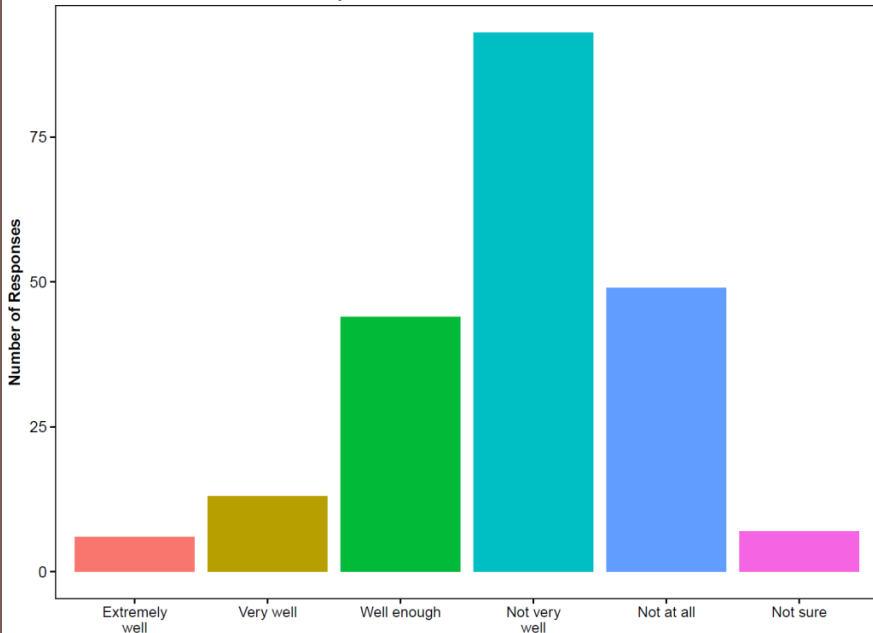




North Trail Study Area Plan

Feedback on Scenario 1 — Online Survey

How well do you think Scenario 1 balances the identified interests?



Interests best addressed:

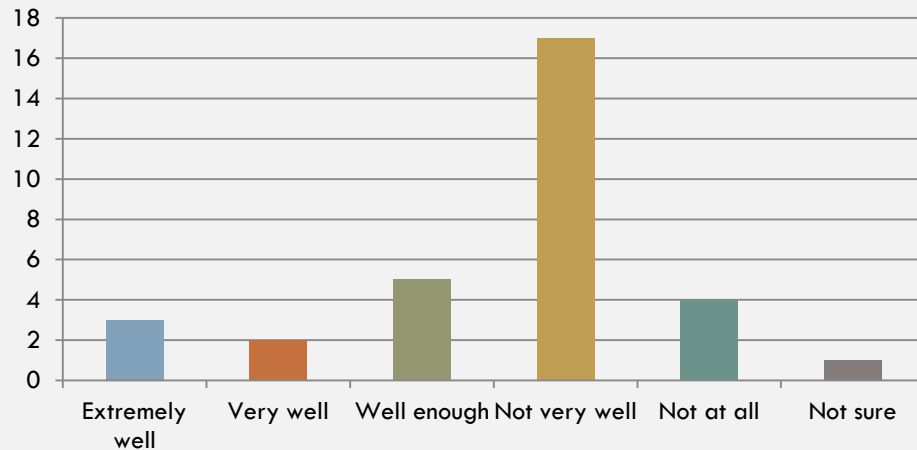
- Conservation of natural resources
- Improved visitor experience
- Improved access and accessibility
- Improved connectivity



North Trail Study Area Plan

Feedback on Scenario 1 — Workshop Poll on Oct. 5

How well do you think Scenario 1 balances the identified interests?



Interests best addressed:

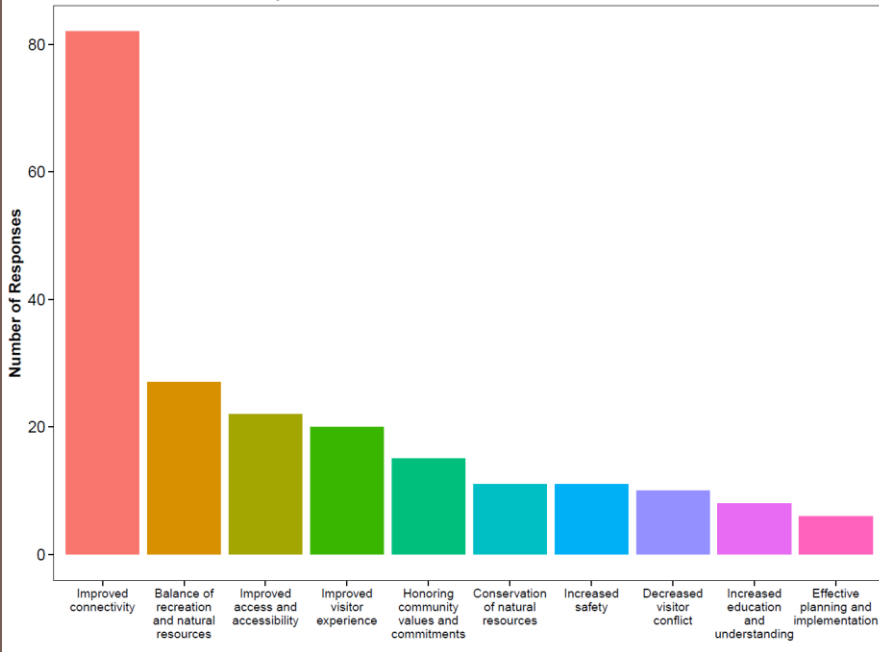
- Conservation of natural resources **1**
- Improved visitor experience **3**
- Improved access and accessibility **4**
- Improved connectivity

- Balance of recreation and natural resources (2)



Feedback on Scenario 1 — Online Survey

Which, if any, of the identified interests are not well addressed in Scenario 1?



Interests not well addressed:

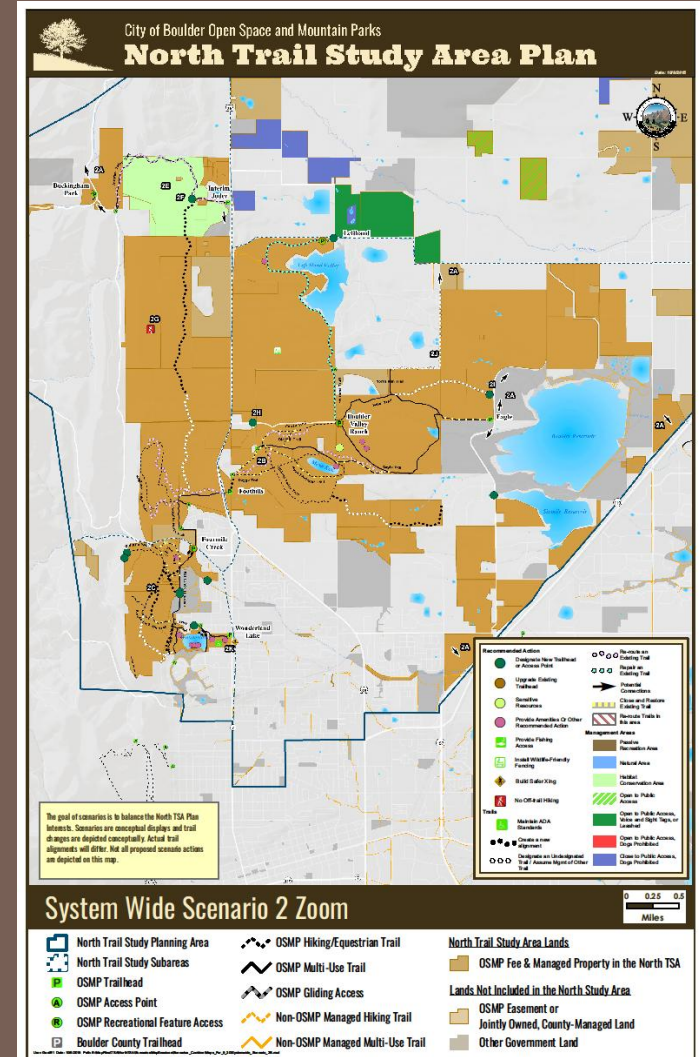
- Improved connectivity 1
- Balance of recreation and natural resources
- Improved access and accessibility
- Improved visitor experience 3
- Conservation of natural resources (2)
- Increased safety (4)



North Trail Study Area Plan

Highlights of Scenario 2

Action	Scenario 2
Joder Connection	West of US 36 and Foothills Business Park
Joder Trails	Joder Interim Trail (rerouted)
Joder Trailheads	Car parking on Joder
BVR Trailheads	Move Sage west Relocate Eagle
Wonderland Lake	Covered meeting area near trailhead

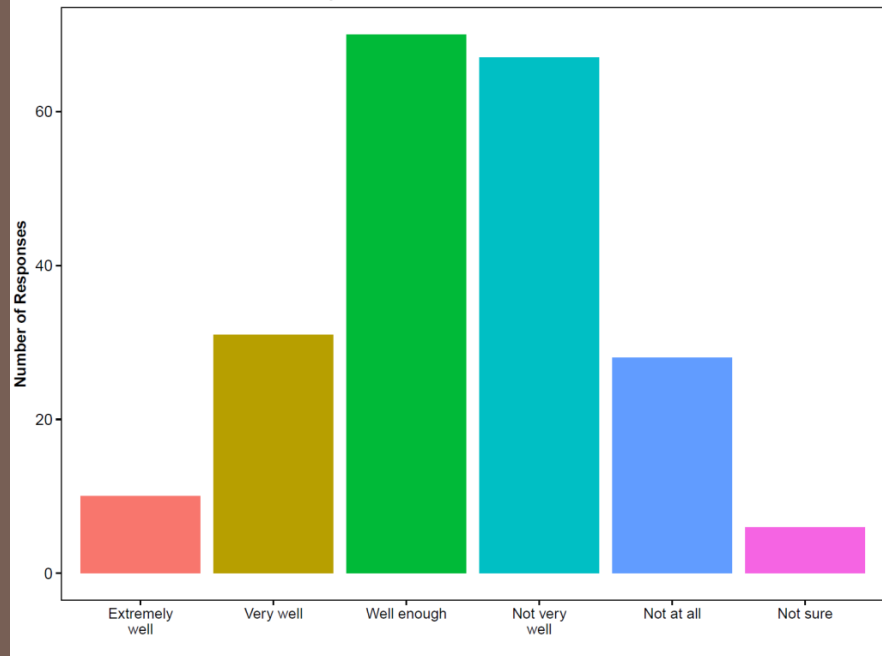




North Trail Study Area Plan

Feedback on Scenario 2 — Online Survey

How well do you think Scenario 2 balances the identified interests?



Interests best addressed:

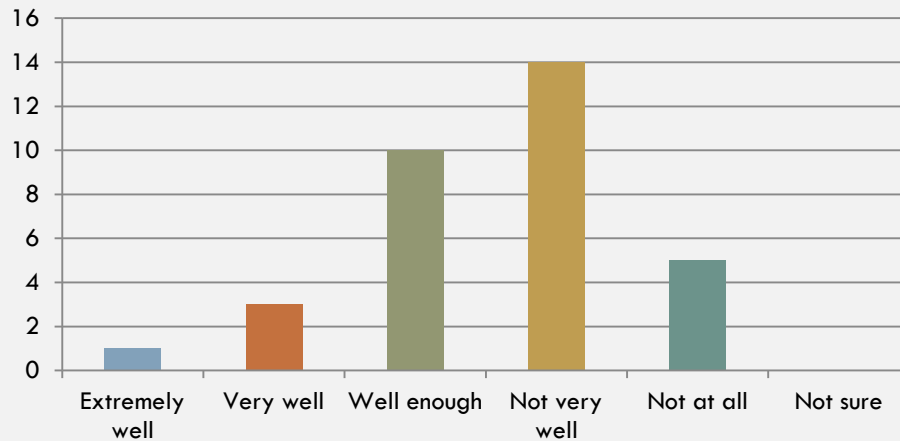
- Improved connectivity
- Improved visitor experience
- Balance of recreation and natural resources
- Improved access and accessibility



North Trail Study Area Plan

Feedback on Scenario 2 — Workshop Poll on Oct. 5

How well do you think Scenario 2 balances the identified interests?



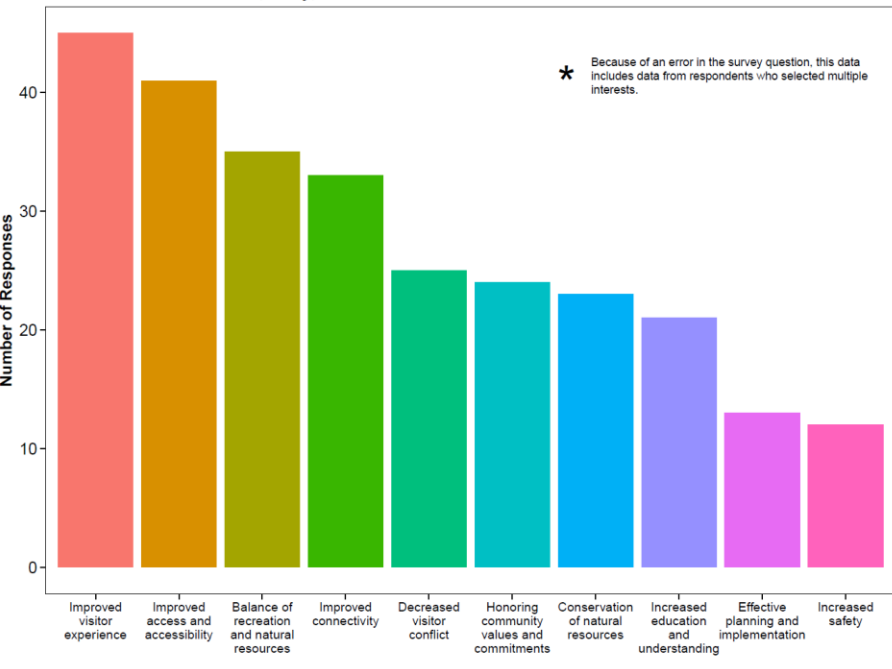
Interests best addressed:

- Improved connectivity 1
- Improved visitor experience 3
- Balance of recreation and natural resources 4
- Improved access and accessibility 2



Feedback on Scenario 2 — Online Survey

Which, if any, of the identified interests are not well addressed in Scenario 2?



Interests not well addressed:

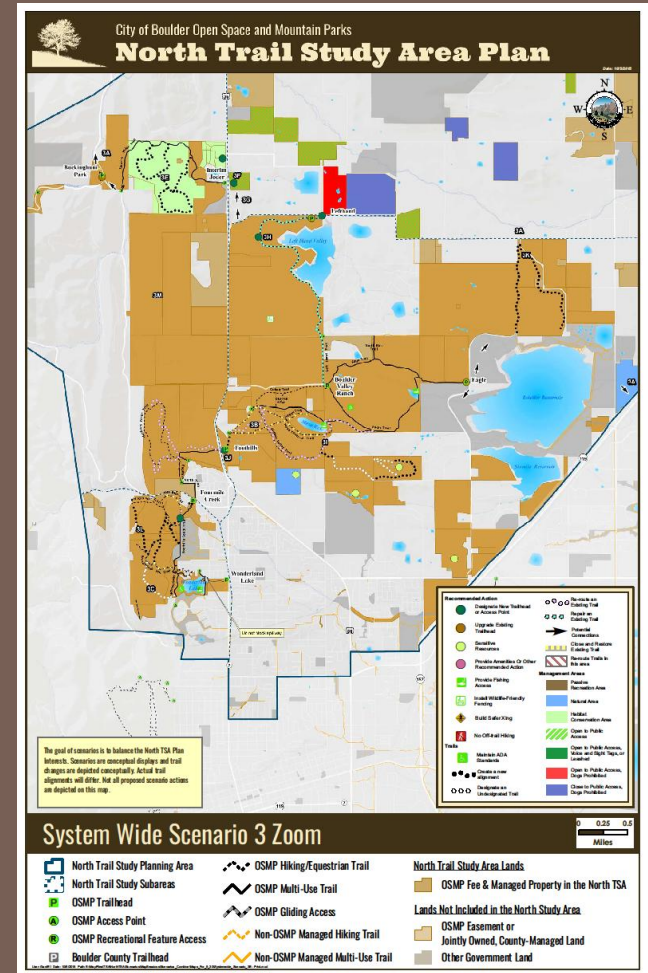
- Improved visitor experience **3**
- Improved access and accessibility
- Balance of recreation and natural resources **4**
- Improved connectivity
- * Increased education and understanding (4)
- Conservation of natural resources (1)
- Decreased visitor conflict (2)



North Trail Study Area Plan

Highlights of Scenario 3

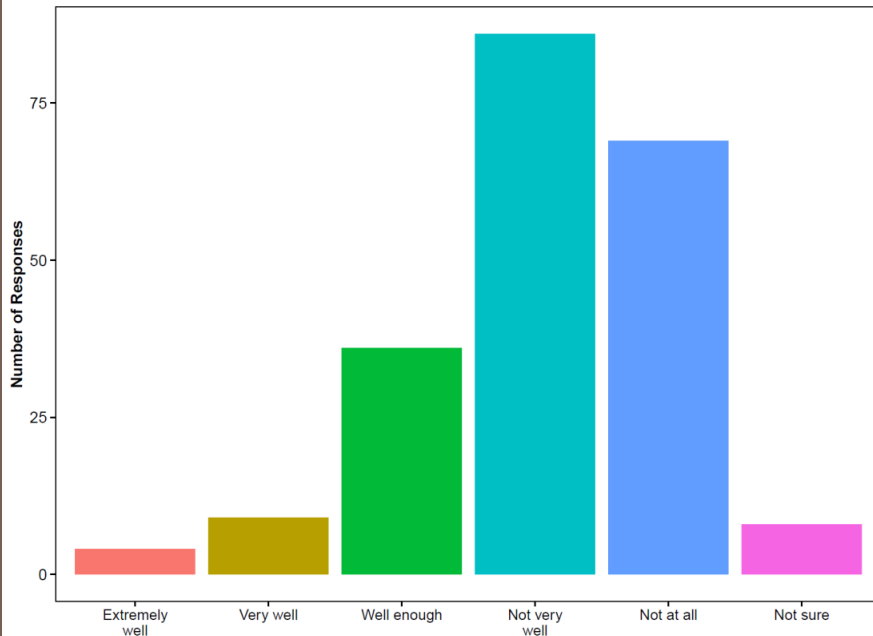
Action	Scenario 3
Joder Connection	East of US 36 via Lefthand Trail
Joder Trails	Three loop trails with temporal separation
Joder Trailheads	Schooley Property (east side US 36)
BVR Trailheads	Relocate Sage and combine with Foothills
Wonderland Lake	Old Kiln link





Feedback on Scenario 3 — Online Survey

How well do you think Scenario 3 balances the identified interests?



Interests best addressed:

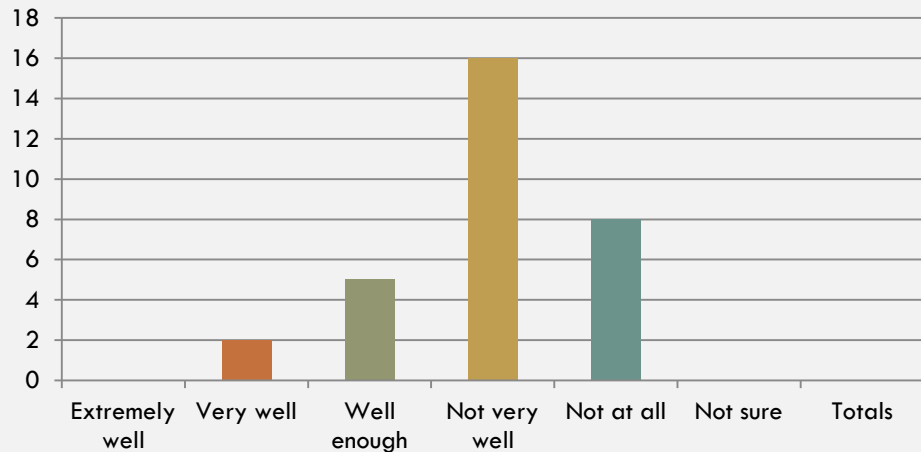
- Conservation of natural resources
- Improved visitor experience
- Balance of recreation and natural resources
- Decreased visitor conflict



North Trail Study Area Plan

Feedback on Scenario 3 — Workshop Poll on Oct. 5

How well do you think Scenario 3 balances the identified interests?



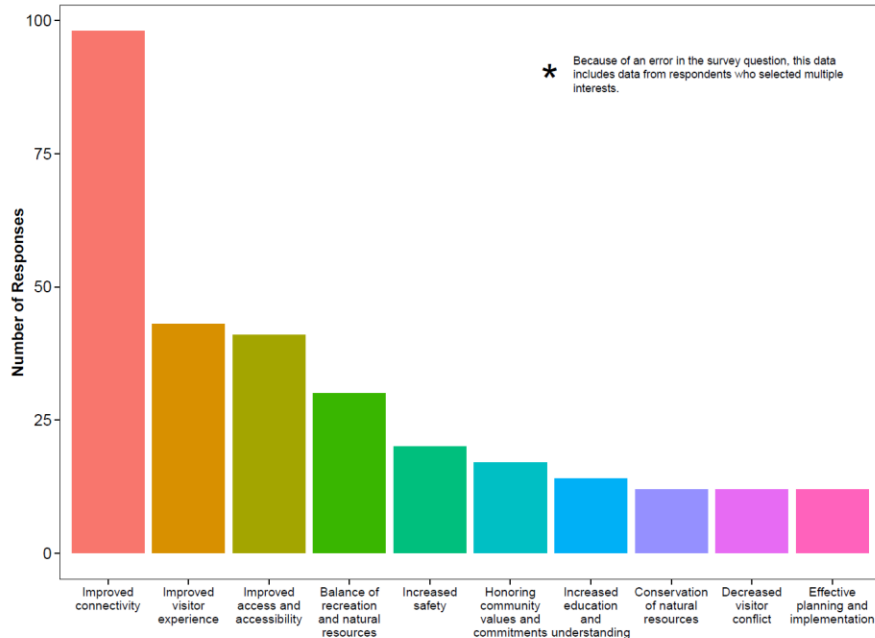
Interests best addressed:

- Conservation of natural resources¹
- Improved visitor experience³
- Balance of recreation and natural resources³
- Decreased visitor conflict
- Increased education and understanding (2)
- Honoring community values and commitments (2)



Feedback on Scenario 3 — Online Survey

Which, if any, of the identified interests are not well addressed in Scenario 3?



Interests not well addressed:

- Improved connectivity ¹
- Improved visitor experience
- Improved access and accessibility ²
- Balance of recreation and natural resources ³

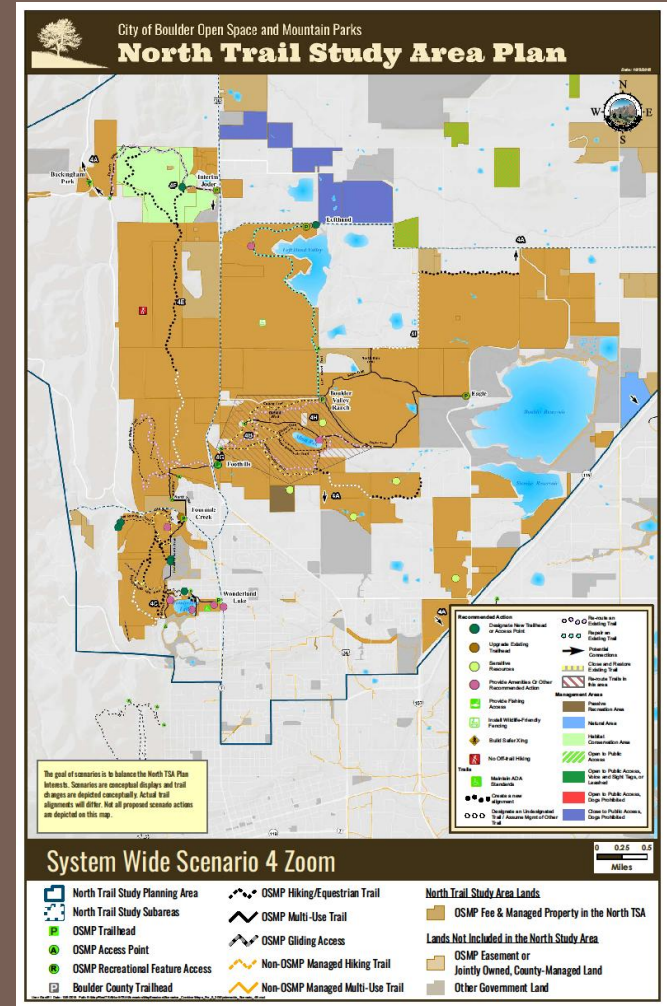
- Conservation of natural resources (2)



North Trail Study Area Plan

Highlights of Scenario 4

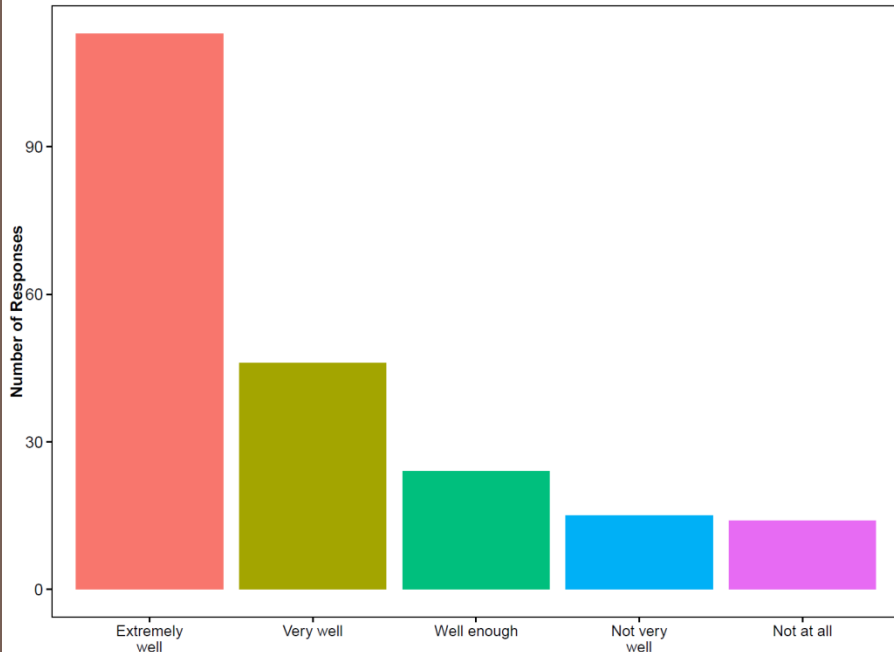
Action	Scenario 4
Joder Connection	West of US 36 and Foothills Business Park
Joder Trails	One loop trail
Joder Trailheads	Car parking on Joder
BVR Trailheads	Relocate Sage and combine with Foothills
Wonderland Lake	Basic changes





Feedback on Scenario 4 — Online Survey

How well do you think Scenario 4 balances the identified interests?



Interests best addressed:

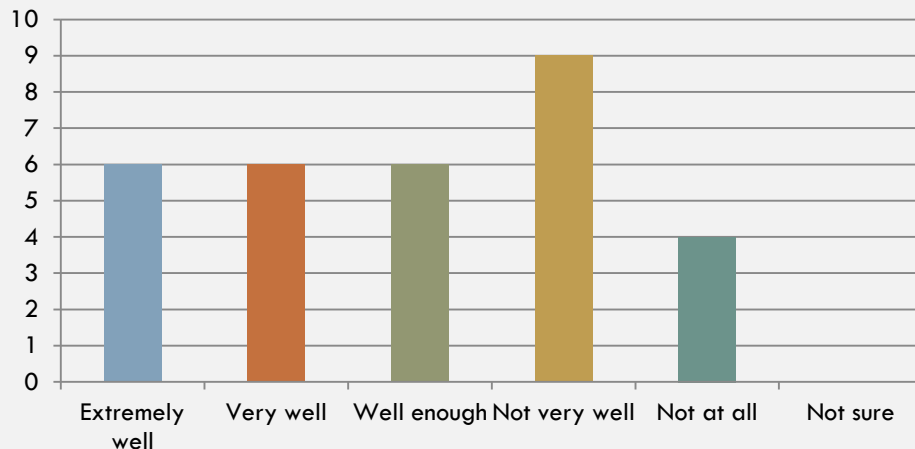
- Improved connectivity
- Improved visitor experience
- Improved access and accessibility
- Balance of recreation and natural resources



North Trail Study Area Plan

Feedback on Scenario 4 — Workshop Poll on Oct. 5

How well do you think Scenario 4 balances the identified interests?



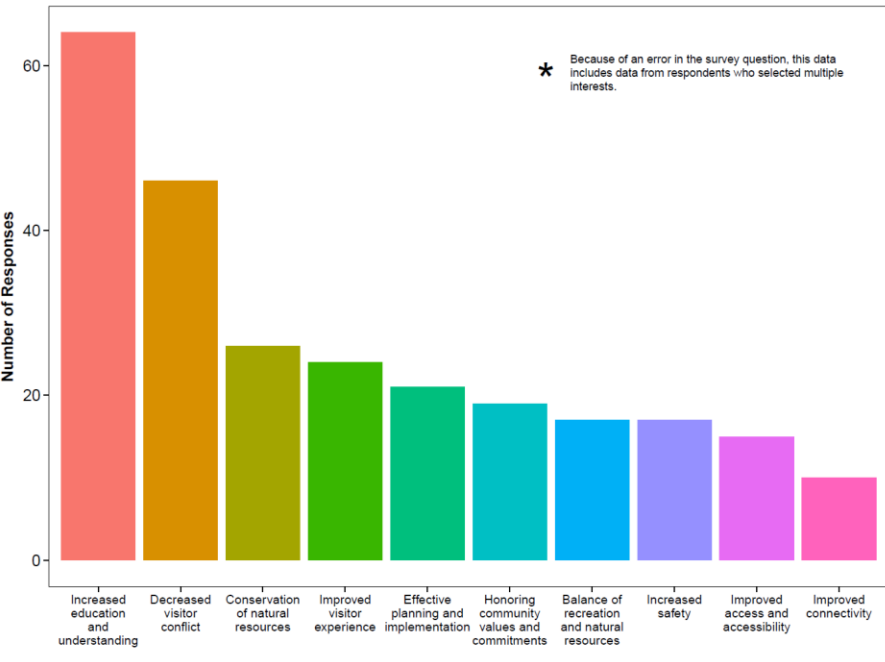
Interests best addressed:

- Improved connectivity ¹
- Improved visitor experience ²
- Improved access and accessibility ³
- Balance of recreation and natural resources ²



Feedback on Scenario 4 — Online Survey

Which, if any, of the identified interests are not well addressed in Scenario 4?



Interests not well addressed:

- Increased education and understanding
- Decreased visitor conflict 2
- Conservation of natural resources 1
- Improved visitor experience 2
- Improved access and accessibility (2)
- Honoring community values and commitments (2)



Reminders:

- Tonight is the time for you to provide your suggestions on how to improve the scenarios.
- The most helpful and successful feedback will be about suggestions that improve the way interests are met while maintaining balance across the interests.
 - If the scenario includes the Joder connection west of Highway 36, how can resource impacts be best mitigated?
 - If the scenario includes the Joder connection east of Highway 36, what can be done to provide a great connection and enjoyable trail experience?



Reminders:

- There are many areas to address in the plan, not just how to connect to the Joder Ranch property.
- Tonight is a wonderful opportunity to work together with people who have different interests and to see how your ideas can be added to a scenario and integrated with changes that keep an overall balance.
- There will be an opportunity to provide feedback online until Sunday, Oct. 25 at midnight.



What Happens with Scenario Feedback?

- Will be compiled with feedback received online.
- Will be shared with the OSBT at a study session on Nov. 16 for the board to provide input to staff about how to improve the scenarios.
- Staff will consider community feedback and OSBT input to prepare preferred scenarios.
- In December there will be a community workshop to review preferred scenarios.



City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

North Trail Study Area Plan

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- *What, if any, other changes did you make to the scenario to ensure balance with the other identified interests?*

8:25 pm Wrap-Up and Next Steps

8:30 pm Adjourn

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